



As Commodore of the Waterway Radio and Cruising Club, and on behalf of its several hundred members, I am writing in support of ICOM's request for waiver, WT docket 17-122, to allow them to resume selling the ICOM 802 marine single-sideband (SSB) transceiver.

Our organization is allied with similar institutions like the Seven Seas Cruising Association and the Maritime Mobile Service Net. We are aware of events on a daily basis where two-way SSB communications significantly facilitate search and rescue (SAR) efforts, provide access to weather and routing advice, provide access to medical advice in cases of injury or illness, and disseminate information on crime and piracy issues. These interactions are not feasible with alternative communications modes: VHF (lack of transmission range), satellite telephone (cost, lack of one-to-many transmission), SSB receivers (lack of ability to interact), and internet (lack of access in offshore locations or remote anchorages).

Alternative approved SSB transceivers are at least twice the price of the ICOM 802, and in most cases much more. These economics force many cruisers, who are often on very restricted budgets, to choose to go without SSB capability entirely. While perhaps unwise, this decision is fully understandable. However, it has a negative effect on safety and security, increases the difficulties and costs for SAR units in the cases of emergency, and delays access to life-saving medical advice when needed most.

Approving WT docket 17-122 will enable more cruisers to voyage in safety.

Sincerely,

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